

REMARKS

The Office Action states that the features “determining at a first time period during the pricing period” and “determining at a second time period during the pricing period”, recited in claims 1-20; and the feature “determining at a plurality of time periods during the pricing period”, recited in claims 21-29; are not shown in the claims. See Office Action page 2. The Office Action requests that the drawings be amended to show these features.

However, the recited features are indeed shown in the drawings. Specifically, Figures 20A and 20B, which are connected to each other at circled points A and B, show the commodity pricing method of the invention including the cited features. As shown in these figures, the method is an iterative process wherein during the overall pricing period, a first time period is determined (see #414 and #418). The method then obtains a formula at the first predetermined time (see #420), and uses that formula to determine how much of the commodity to price at the current market price.

The method then checks to see if all of the commodity has been priced (see #452). If not, the method returns to the step labeled #418, and a second time period is determined. The method then obtains a formula at the second predetermined time (see #420), and uses that formula to determine how much of the commodity to price at the now-current market price. And so on, until the entire quantity of commodity is priced. The process and claim features shown in Figures 20A and 20B are further discussed in the specification, beginning at paragraph #108.

Thus, Figures 20A and 20B show all three of the cited claim features - “determining at a first time period during the pricing period”, “determining at a second time period during the pricing period”, and “determining at a plurality of time periods during the pricing period”.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the drawing objections be withdrawn. Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action they respectfully solicit.

Respectfully,

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